

Merinda Ellis Evans

6306 Rory Ct Lanham, MD 20706

Phone: (301) 429-3926, Mobile: (301) 395-7895

Email: merinda_evans2003@yahoo.com

PROFILE

Merinda Evans, also known as Mama Merinda, is an exceptional dancer, member of an African dance company, well-respected costume designer, and experienced artistic director and choreographer. Mama Merinda provides dance and choreography for several community educational programs in Washington, DC and Maryland area.

She started her African Dance career in 1987 with African Heritage Dance and Drum in Washington, DC. Merinda earned Step Aerobic Certification with the ACAS in 1994.

She became principal dancer, instructor and choreographer with WO'SE African Dance Theater from 1990 to 1997. During her time with WO'SE she participated in the month long residency in Guinea West Africa, under the tutelage of the Ballet African's the National Ballet of Guinea. Merinda was principal dancer with Balafon West African Dance Ensemble as well as Assistant Manager from 1997 to 2004. She still works with and represents Balafon in the D.C. Metro area including D.C. recreation, and after school and summer programs in the area. Mama Merinda has been performing for heads of state and sold out audiences all over the U.S. and in Taiwan. Merinda was the instructor, choreographer and director for Mantism-Adze the Arts outreach and performance group for St. Michael's Lutheran Church from 2003-2007. In working with St Michael's she provided regular instruction/aerobic classes for the congregation.

She enthusiastically teaches African dance movement to all ages and levels and serves as choreographer and instructor to Taratibu Youth Association in Mount Rainier Maryland from 2013 to present.

EXPERIENCE

Taratibu Youth Association Choreographer/Instructor	Washington, District of Columbia	2013-Present
Matism-Adze Dance Company Choreographer/Instructor	Mitchellville, Maryland	2003-2005
Joe's Movement Emporium Instructor	Mt. Rainer, Maryland	1999-2002
The Fitness Company, Green Court Instructor/Step Aerobics	Washington, District of Columbia	1998 - 2003
Balafon West African Dance Ensemble Primary Dancer/Asst. Mgr.	Washington, District of Columbia	1997-2005
Model Secondary School for the Deaf Assistant Instructor	Washington, District of Columbia	1997-1998
WO'SE African Dance Theatre Primary Dancer/ Instructor	Washington, District of Columbia	1990-1997
University of Maryland Substitute Instructor	College Park, Maryland	1993-1994
Parley Coburn Elementary School Cultural Residency Program	Elmira, New York	1995-1996
ACE Group Instructor Certification Step Aerobic Instructor	Washington, District of Columbia	1994-1996
African Heritage Dancers and Drummers Primary Dancer/ Instructor	Washington, District of Columbia	1987-1990

EDUCATION

BA, School of Communications, Music Education, minor
Howard University, Washington, D.C.

May 1985

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

2016–2017

TheARC Washington, DC

2015

Wolf Trap Children's Theater Vienna, Virginia

2014

Trail to Freedom Heritage Performance Fredericksburg, Virginia

2013

4th Annual DC Africa Celebration Washington, District of Columbia

Taratibu Black History Program Washington, District of Columbia

2012

Washington Revels Sunfest Silver Spring, Maryland

2011

(MSOA) International Monetary Fund (World Bank) Washington, District of Columbia

2010–2009

Francophone Cultural Festival Washington, District of Columbia

Discovery Theater Washington, District of Columbia

Smithsonian Natural History Museum

Miss Guinee Contest Adelphi, Maryland

2008

Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight Washington, District of Columbia

Florida African Dance Festival Tallahassee, Florida

Publick Playhouse Cheverly, Maryland

U.S. Department of Justice Washington, District of Columbia

2007

Florida African Dance Festival Tallahassee, Florida

Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2006

Kelly–Strayhorn Theater Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2005

United Nations Trusteeship Council Chamber New York City, NY

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Washington, District of Columbia

2001

Rock Creek Sports Club Silver Spring, Maryland

Safe Streets Program Washington, District of Columbia

1998

Taiwan Concert Theater Tai Pei, Taiwan

1996

Residency with The National Ballet of Guinée Conakry, République of Guinée